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1986/03/15

3) (C/FORM) CHINA/USSR: POSSIBLE PROGRESS IN RELATIONS

(U) (C) (FOUO) SOVIET FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IVAN ARKHIPOV IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE FIRST SESSION OF A JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMICS, TRADE, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY IN BEIJING ON 15 MAR. ARKHIPOV IS THE HIGHEST-RANKING SOVIET OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE PRC IN 15 YEARS; HIS FIRST VISIT TO BEIJING WAS IN 1974. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION COULD INCLUDE SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE CHINESE INDUSTRY. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE NEXT ROUND OF SINO-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE VICE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, [REDACTED] WILL COMMENCE ON 25 APR IN MOSCOW. (U) [REDACTED] DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ARENA, BEIJING HAS CONSISTENTLY REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS UNTIL MOSCOW HAS MET ITS THREE CONDITIONS: VIETNAMESE MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM CAMBODIA, SOVIET MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN, AND REDUCTION OF SOVIET TROOPS ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER).

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